

# The Native

"OUR COUNTRY, ALWAYS RIGHT."

VOL. IV.] CITY OF WASHINGTON,

## POETRY.

### SONNET TO LIBERTY.

There is a spirit working in the world,  
Like to a silent subterranean fire;  
Yet, ever and anon, some monarch hurld  
Aghast and pale, attests its fearful ire.  
The dungeon'd nations now once more inspire  
The keen and stirring air of liberty.  
The Giant wakes, and finds, surpris'd, he's free.  
By Delphi's fountain-cave, that ancient Choir  
Resume their song; the Greek satonish'd hears,  
And the old altar of his worship rears.  
Sound on! Fair Sisters; sound your boldest lyre,  
Peal your old harmonies as far from spheres!  
Unto strange gods we long have bent the knee,  
The troubling mind, too long and patiently.

### TO THE SEA.

I love the sea—the breeze, that from its home  
Comes o'er the waters, whitening into foam;  
The spray that glitters on the moon's pale light,  
From the dark vessel in her onward flight.  
I love the sea—e'en when across the sky,  
Quick as thought, the swift wing'd lightnings fly,  
When thunders roll—and, like a misty veil,  
The white sail shivers in the rising gale.  
I love the sea—its boundless wastes of foam,  
The landsman's terror, and the sailor's home;  
In storm or sunshine, wild, resistless sea,  
My heart's deep homage shall be paid to thee.

## MISCELLANY.

### From the Sunday Morning News.

A pound of flesh nearest the heart,  
Reads it not so?  
The court awards it, and the law  
Doth give it.  
How wise and upright judge,  
Most I do honor thee!

### Merchant of Venice.

THE BANKRUPT LAW.—We may smile at the incongruity of the laws of Venice, as depicted by Shakespeare, which so fully recognised the penalty of the bond, as to give to Shylock his pound of flesh nearest the heart of the unfortunate debtor—and yet made it an offence confiscating the property of the creditor, "who, by direct or indirect attempt," practised against the life of the citizen. Are our bankrupt laws any better? Cannot the modern Shylock exact the full penalty of his bond, and prostrate the prospects of the debtor—keep him for life his bondsman and slave—destroy all his hopes of advancement—break down the family circle—carry hopelessness and dismay to the fireside, where all before was happiness and peace—deprive the wife of support from the earnings of the husband—and the children of maintenance and education from the industry of the father? Until borne down by the weight of obligation which he cannot discharge, he finds a refuge in the grave, and the wife and children become a burden upon their friends, tenants of an almshouse, or outcasts upon society. That this is not an overcharged picture, or that imagination has not been called upon to darken the coloring of every day's experience, thousands can testify who have visited our almshouses, and seen there the victims of a husband's misfortunes or imprudence, if you please to call it, at an advanced period of life, supported by our city's charity—our Long Island farms, where the children of those who were once rich and affluent, bless the hands which offered them a protection in tender age, and the means to make their way hereafter in the world—or our houses of refuge where the ill cared for offspring of misfortune or imprudence is brought under wholesome restraint, and an opportunity afforded him to retrace the errors which poverty and evil communication had induced him to fall into. Blessed, thrice blessed be every means of charity and every endeavor at reformation; and cursed, thrice cursed, be that grasping and hardened spirit of accumulation which always demands its own—which makes no allowance for misfortune or imprudence, but exacts its pound of flesh, and exults over his prostrate victim—dodging his steps with the fidelity of a bloodhound—watching his exertions to support a family, only to force from him his small and scanty earnings—and often waiting until some gleam of sunshine had brightened his path to cover him with deeper darkness—until prosperity had again as it were, presented her cup to his lip to turn it to bitterness and gall—breaking up some newly built up business, with an injunction from that curse of our State, the Court of Chancery, forbidding him to be honest and industrious—and oftentimes at the suit of some creditor who least deserved the interference of a court of Equity, and made use of this court of inquisition to gratify a deep feeling of revenge against a man, whom he had not the spirit to meet as man ought to meet man, but took advantage of circumstance to add to the cup of bitterness which the creditor was compelled to swallow, not expecting to derive any pecuniary advantage, but to take his pay, as the expression is, in the mutilation and prostration of the victim, and the distress and privation

he could thereby entail upon those who were near and dear to him. In this point of view the curse of the Court of Chancery has become a greater evil than imprisonment for debt, which has been abolished; and it is a melancholy fact, that of late years the jurisdiction of the court has been steadily extending, until at last it has become a perfect star chamber, lending its power, whether inherent, collateral, or assumed, we shall not stop to examine, to purposes of malignant revenge. That we are not alone in this opinion, let the measures which have been in agitation to abolish it altogether, or to modify and restrict its jurisdiction, testify; and that politician will earn for himself great and enduring favor from the people, who will steadily pursue it to its extinction. We may take up the court of Chancery hereafter, but these remarks are only incidental to our subject at present.

Now, we hold that one great source of national wealth and independence is in the industry and spirit of the people, and that whenever the industry and spirit of an individual is crushed and broken, it is a link of the chain abstracted, which extends throughout the union, small and perhaps unimportant in itself, but nevertheless a link, and abstracting from the general welfare. But take the situation of our country as it stands at present, the thousands and tens of thousands who have been suddenly impoverished and reduced from competence or wealth to niter, and hop-less insolvency, embracing a large portion of our most active and enterprising men of business, and then say, if they can be kept in a state of hopeless bondage, without a great abstraction from the national industry and spirit of the people. Do they not present a strong claim on the national legislature for the enactment of a general bankrupt law, whose provisions will be co-extensive with the union, and will meet the state of things between debtor and creditor in a spirit of even handed justice, and in accordance to the more enlightened spirit of the times in which they live—which will give to the creditor all the property of the debtor, and let the otherwise enslaved go free. We maintain that this is all the creditor has a right to expect. He trusted him on the strength of his property, and if that is all given up and surrendered, the obligations of justice are discharged, and he must look to the honor and future success of the creditor to make good any present deficiency in means; and the instances are many where unfortunate men, after having been discharged by the creditor, and been afterwards successful, have called the old creditors together and paid them in full, principal and interest, while the instances are few and far between, of those who have been denied a release, ever afterwards settling with their creditors. There is a feeling in the heart of an honest and prosperous man, which will never suffer him peacefully to enjoy the blessings of a beneficent providence, while old debts are hanging over him; and how often do we find men who, if left to the promptings of their own innate feelings of integrity, would exert themselves to the utmost to pay their debts, graded, persecuted, and insulted, have lost sight of those feelings, and kept the property of their creditors to support themselves and family, which they would not have done under other circumstances. Again, we hold that no law can compel the innately dishonest man to act honorably, and that severe statutory enactments press only upon the honest and high spirited, while the others evade, and do not feel them. It is matter of notoriety that large amounts of property are covered by, and business openly carried on in the name of others, by those who can laugh at the injunctions of a Court of Chancery, and trifle with the obligations of an oath, and therefore the interference of a general bankrupt law is an object as desirable to the creditor as it is to the debtor, as by its searching operation it will enable him to bring up all parties—and unwrap all the coverings of the insolvent—and reach all the property of the debtor, wherever placed, or however speciously connected—and consigns the perjured creditor to infamy, and blasts hereafter all his attempts to build up a credit. The debtor being then free, can obtain credit on his honesty and industry, his enterprise and commercial reputation, and economy and strict attention to business may, in a few years, after the lesson he has received in the bitter school of adversity, enable him to pay his old debts, and retain his place and standing as a merchant; but if he feels that as fast as he earns a dollar it must be paid over to some grasping creditor, who is watching all his movements, to pour upon him with a writ of injunction, or to break him up by the enforcement of some judgment, and that he can never hope to acquire capital sufficient to carry out any comprehensive plan of operations, he sinks daily depressed in spirit, and broken down by hop-less insolvency, and often resorts to the bar-room or ale-house to drown care

in that cup which is certain destruction to both body and soul. Under such circumstances it is no wonder that he cannot obtain credit and assistance. No one will trust their goods to a man with the certainty that the moment they enter his door they will be seized to pay old debts; and none will venture to lend a man hopelessly insolvent. But our best merchants now are those who in former years were unfortunate, surrendered all, and were discharged, for their former spirit had been tempered and chastised by misfortunes, and their enterprise schooled and subdued by experience.

We have thought that these remarks would be applicable to the present moment. At the last session of Congress, innumerable petitions were presented for the passage of a bankrupt law, but after lingering for a long time, the bill from the finger of Mr. Wall was delayed to the end of the session, until it was said to be too late, and it was given the go by in Congressional style; it will, undoubtedly, be revived the coming session, and will, we hope, be made a test at the coming election in November. To do the whip party justice, and only justice, they are in favor of a "bankrupt law," with the exception of a few Shylocks who, insensible themselves to justice and humanity, cannot feel for the unfortunate; and as their own hearts have never throbb'd high with honorable feeling, they cannot understand or be made to feel, that any distinction should be made between the honest and dishonest, between the unfortunate or the imprudent and the rogue, or to realize that a high spirited man can never consider his obligations paid, even if discharged from legal obligation, until every cent is paid up of principal and interest. The foreign merchant has also an eretaken to give his views to an American Congress on the obligations of an American citizen; and the only harm we wish them is, that they may in their turn be made to feel the necessity of a general bankrupt law. They will, in such a case, receive small commiseration from the community at large.

The democratic party were plainly in fault in this respect, for if they had been honest and sincere in their professions in favor of a general bankrupt law, the feeling in Congress evidently was to embrace corporations in the provisions of the law; but its political effect was dreaded as uncertain, and unfortunately whigs did not hesitate to appropriate the democratic Mr. Wright with objections, and to kill a bill which was destined to make for their friends great political capital. The President of the United States, at last convinced that the trimming policy of his party was injurious to his prospects of success at the coming Presidential election, has at last declared his opinion in favor of a bankrupt law including corporations; and as both parties are now in favor, we do not see that any difficulty exists, if those in favor of the law will make it a test question at the coming election, and allow of no hesitation or circumlocution in the reply. "Are you in favor of a general bankrupt law as it passed the Senate; and will you, if elected, use your exertions to the best of your ability, to ensure its passage early in the coming session? Answer yes or no;" and by their response vote for or against the candidate without regard to party lines! We believe associations are formed for this purpose. We hope they will act with spirit and determination.

Tit for Tat.—Not long since a worthy mechanic of this place who by prudence and industry, had put by enough to purchase a small lot on which to erect a work shop, did so. The deed was made out and presented to him; and he wishing to be sure all was right, took it to a lawyer and requested him to look it over. On the lawyer's pronouncing it all right, he asked him his charge—"As you are a poor man, I will charge but five dollars," was the generous reply. Not many days after this, the lawyer rode out in his carriage, and when near the shop of his recently sheared customer some part of his rigging gave way which compelled him to call a blacksmith. The tinkering at the carriage took about as long as it did the lawyer to look over the deed. "What's your charge, sir," asked the lawyer. "As you are a poor man I will charge you but five dollars," grinned the smutty blacksmith.—The lawyer recognizing his customer, handed him a five dollar note, and rode on.—Poughkeepsie Telegraph.

A Picture.—A fair young lady is leaning pensively on the casement, gazing, with thoughtful brow, upon the scene below. The bloom of fifteen summers tints her soft cheek, the sweets of a thousand flowers are gathered about her round full lips, the curls cling to a spotless brow, and fall upon a neck of perfect grace, the soft swimming eyes seem'd lighted by the tenderest fire of poetry, and beauty hovers over her, as her own most favored child. What are her thoughts? Love cannot stir a bosom so young, sorrow cannot yet have touched a spirit so pure. Innocence herself seems to have chosen her for its own. Alas! has disappointment touched that youthful heart? Yes, it must be so; but list! she starts—her lips part—she speaks—listen—"Jim, you nasty fool! quit scratching that pig's back, or I'll tell mar."—Richmond Enq.

### THE INTEMPERATE HUSBAND.

It is my friend, in the degradation of a husband by intemperance, where she who has ventured every thing, feels that she is lost.—Who shall protect her, when the husband of her choice insults and oppresses her? What shall delight her when she shrinks from the sight of his face, and trembles at the sound of his voice?

The hearth is indeed dark, that he has made desolate. There, through the dull midnight hours, her griefs are whispered to herself; but her bruised heart bleeds in secret. There, while the cruel author of the distress is drowned in distant revelry she holds her solitary vigil, waiting, yet dreading his return, that is only to ring from her by unkindness, tears even more scalding than those she shed over his transgressions.

To bring a deeper gloom across the present, memory turns back and broods upon the past. The joys of other days come over her as if only to mock her griefed and weary spirit.

She recalls the ardent lover, whose graces won her from the home of her infancy; the enraptured father who bent with such delight over his new born children; and she asks if this can be the same; this sunken being, who has now nothing for her but the so's disgusting brutality; nothing for those abashed and trembling children, but the so's disgusting example.

Can we wonder that amid these agonizing moments the tender chords of violated affection should snap asunder? That the scorned and deserted wife should confess "there is no killing like that which kills the heart!" That though it would have been hard to kiss for the last time the cold lips of a dead husband, and lay his body forever in the dust, it is harder still to hold him in so debasing a life, that even death would be greeted in mercy.

Had he died in the light of his goodness, bequeathing to his family the inheritance of an untarnished name, and an example of virtues that should blossom for his sons and daughters from the tomb—though she would have wept bitterly indeed, the tears of grief would not have been also the tears of shame.

She beholds him fallen from the station he once adorned, degraded from eminence to ignominy; at home, turning his dwelling to darkness, and its holy endearments to mockery; abroad, thrust from the companionship of the worthy, a self-branded outlaw.

An old Toper, in the last stages of the dropsy, was told by his physician that nothing would save him but being tapped. His son, (a witty little shaver,) objected to the operation, saying, "Daddy, daddy, don't submit to it; for you know there was never any thing tapped in our house that lasted more than a week."—Boston Post.

A STRANGE SENTENCE.—Galligani's Paris Messenger gives the following: "The government, a few years ago, left to three criminals condemned to death, the choice of dying on the gallows, or adopting the following conditions:—The first was to take tea, the second coffee, and the third chocolate, and to live as long as they could, but to eat nothing with either—these conditions were eagerly accepted. The last who took chocolate died in eight months; he who took coffee, lived two years; and the tea drinker survived three years. The man who took chocolate died in a state of complete decomposition, and was so much eaten by worms, that during his life his limbs separated one by one from his body. The man who drank coffee was so disfigured after his death that one would have said that the fire of heaven had burnt his entrails, and calcined him from head to foot. The tea drinker became so thin and almost diaphanous, that it was perfectly easy, with a candle in one's hand, to read a newspaper through his body by the intervals which separated his ribs!"

A Hint to the Girls.—We have always considered it an unerring sign of innate vulgarity when we hear the ladies take particular pains to impress us with an idea of their ignorance of all domestic matters, save sewing lace or weaving a net to encase their delicate hands. Ladies, by some curious kind of hoenspoens, have got it into their heads that the best way to catch a husband is to show him how profoundly capable they are of doing nothing for his comfort. Frightening a photo into fits, or murdering the king's French, may be good bait for certain kinds of fish, but they must be of that small kind usually found in very shallow waters. The surest way to secure a good husband is to cultivate those accomplishments which make a good wife.

Two blooming young ladies in Philadelphia, one day last week, got caught in a sudden shower. On reaching home they found that the rain had washed the color from their cheeks.



# American.

BUT RIGHT OR WRONG, OUR COUNTRY."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1840.

[No. 6.]

## AGRICULTURE.

### PLOUGHING.

Farmers have been considerably divided in opinion on two points connected with ploughs, or rather with ploughing; one of these regarding the manner in which the furrow slice should be turned over, and the other, the depth to which land should be ploughed. Some have contended that the furrow slice should never be laid flat, but always in such an inclined position, that the edge of one slice should just rest on the next one, leaving under the edge so raised, a vacancy nearly as deep as the thickness of the furrow slice. This, it is contended, is advantageous, by hastening decomposition, and by allowing water to pass freely off without injury to young plants. Other farmers maintain a strenuously that the furrow slice should in all cases be laid perfectly flat, or reversed in such a manner that a field after ploughing should be as level as before, the plough simply reversing the surface of the slice. In this, as in a majority of controverted points, our experience and observation leads us to conclude that both sides are partly right, and partly wrong. We have found that, if on lands strong and with a tenacious or impervious subsoil, which retained for some time what water fell upon it, the furrow slice was slightly lapped, so as to leave a space below, young plants suffered less from a wet season, or an undue accumulation of water, than they would if the furrow slice was fully inverted, and the surface made smooth and even. On the contrary we have been led to believe that on a light soil, or one inclining to be dry or porous, it was better to invert the surface completely, and by rolling, render the surface smooth, and its particles as compact as possible. A surface so treated, will retain its moisture longer than if left in a state more loose and friable, and the conduct power will be increased by the particles being brought more closely in contact. Let the farmer, then, whose subsoil is impervious to water lay his furrows, as dipping as he pleases; the more space below, the better for him; but on a light porous soil, lay the surface flat, and make it as dense as it well can be. The benefit, which compressing sandy soils confer, is well understood in Norfolk, in England, where the treading of the sheep in feeding on turnips in the field, is considered not the least beneficial part of the culture required for the production of wheat.

Nearly the same remarks may be applied to the other controverted point, viz: that which relates to the depth of ploughing. The propriety or impropriety of deep ploughing must be determined by the soil itself; by its condition, in reference to a supply of vegetable matter in the soil, and the depth to which it has been formerly ploughed. Where the stratum of fertile soil is thin, and the subsoil, no matter from what cause, incapable of producing vegetation, it is bad policy to bring this infertile subsoil to the surface, as a stratum in which seeds are to germinate. And where the soil is permeable to the depth of twelve or eighteen inches, or as low as the plough can penetrate, and is filled with fertilizing materials, deposited by the process of nature, or by manure applied to the surface in cultivation, then the plough may run deep without fear of injury to the present crop, and the certainty of benefit to the future ones. We think the true method of rendering any soil deep and fertile, is to plough no deeper, and bring up no more of the infertile earth at a time to the surface, than can be thoroughly corrected by manures, to be incorporated with it, and thus made friable and productive. At each successive ploughing, if this course is followed, the soil will be gradually deepened and rendered productive to any desired ploughing. Judge Powell rendered his soils fertile to the depth of four or five inches, and where the roots of plants have this depth of good earth to range in and seek their food, the farmer can hardly fail of securing first rate crops. Every part of a soil so prepared, is fit for the germination of seeds to the lowest depth to which the plough can reach; and the more thorough the ploughing is given, the greater will be the surface exposed to the benefits of aeration, or the ameliorating influences of the atmosphere. One of the greatest differences between the old and the new husbandry, depends on this question of ploughing. In the old mode, the plough was used year after year to the same depth, and the manure applied with reference to the crop solely, while the improvement of the soil was wholly left out of sight. As a natural consequence, "there was no depth of soil," and when manure failed, the fertility of the land was gone, with scarcely a possibility of renovation under such a process. In the new husbandry, the permanent improvement of the soil, by gradual manuring and deepening, is kept steadily in view; and hence the accumulation and use of manures has received

an additional importance. The garden is usually far the most fertile part of the farm, and this is brought about by the gradual incorporation of manures with the subsoil raised at each successive ploughing, until the requisite depth and fertility is gained. On lands long ploughed to a uniform depth, as they were under the old system, the pressure of the plough on the same surface, gradually formed an impenetrable strata, thus forming a fatal obstruction to the roots of plants, where it did not naturally exist. In England, on soils inclining to clay, and which have been under the plough centuries, this impermeable pan is common, and one of the most decided advantages found to result from the subsoil plough, is the breaking up and demolition of this artificial obstruction to the spread and depth of the roots of plants. On the old cultivated fields of New England, the same difficulty exists more or less, and can be removed, and the soil rendered fertile, by the same means so successful abroad.

The too frequent ploughing of land is not to be recommended in any case, and unless absolutely required to destroy foul weeds, it should receive no further moving than is requisite to fit it for a crop. The great mistake of Till, was, that ploughing or pulverization would supersede the use of manuring. But experience shows, what indeed philosophy indicates, that beyond a certain point, ploughing is injurious; and that, though essential benefits are derived to the soil from the action of atmospheric agents, manuring in some form, is indispensable to successful farming. It may be said that an application of manure should take place every time land is either ploughed or cropped. On land that has been brought to a high state of fertility, the decomposition of rich sward will usually prove a sufficient dressing for a single crop; but for a repetition or rotation of crops, manures cannot be withheld without a certain deterioration of the soil, and a probable lessening of the crop. Ploughing and manuring must go together, and without this combination, each will be found defective and incapable of producing such results as are certain to ensure when both separate processes are skillfully united. We are therefore disposed to consider every decided improvement in the plough, as a sure indication of progress in agriculture; a proof that another step in the correction of a dissipation of ancient error has been gained—and the way opened and the means provided for still further and more important advances.—*Albany Cultivator*.

I see it stated in Hope's Practical Farmer, that an efficient remedy for destroying caterpillars, aphides, and other insects, prey upon the leaves and limbs of fruit, ornamental and shade trees, is to bore a hole into the tree with a gimblet, about one third of its diameter—then fill the hole with a small quantity of flour of sulphur and plug the hole with a wooden peg. The sulphur is decomposed and carried into circulation by the sap, and is exhaled by the leaves in a gaseous state, while it poisons and kills all the caterpillars and insects preying upon them. I have heard of mercurial ointment being used in the above manner, and have tried the experiment without effect. The *Cercilio* has become a very destructive insect to smooth skin fruits, in consequence of their immense numbers, no pains having heretofore been taken, heretofore, to destroy them. It occurred to me that they could not well withstand the fumes of sulphur. I accordingly made a strong smoke of brimstone on a frying-pan, and had it held in such a manner that the tree would be enveloped by the smoke—this was done repeatedly early in the morning after a rain or heavy dew, and while the fruit was tender and liable to be attacked. The consequence was, that last season, I was so fortunate as to have some Apples, a good many Nectarines, and a fine quantity of Plums, in perfection. Previously, my Plums and Nectarines were nearly all destroyed by the *Cercilio*: this season, the late frosts were more fatal.—*A Farmer of Davidson County, Tenn. Agriculturist*.

BEST SUGAR MANUFACTURE.—Mr. Shother M. Helm, of New Haven, Nelson Co. Ky., advertises for a competent person to join him in the above business. He makes the following advantageous offer: "He will furnish 1300 acres of land—150 acres of which is alluvial, equal to the best land on the Mississippi, perfectly dry, and capable of producing 100 bushels of corn per acre—the whole tract is suitable to the best culture, and can be cultivated every year if necessary. He will furnish all the hands and other means necessary to commence the business advantageously, and will give to any competent gentleman who will join his skill to the means stated, a sufficient portion of the profits to make a liberal compensation for his time and labor."